

by him to request that you will make the above communication in his name as well as in mine.

I intend leaving Shanghai on or about the 15th of this month.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

Inclosure 7 in No. 8.

*Commissioners Kweiliang, Hwashand, &c., to
Mr. Bruce.*

(Translation.)

Kwei, &c., Hwa, &c., Ho, &c., Twau, &c., Imperial Commissioners, make a communication in reply.

On receipt of Mr. Bruce's letter of the 8th instant, acquainting the Commissioners that his determination to proceed forthwith to Peking to exchange the ratifications of the Treaty was unalterable, the Commissioners feeling that it would not be correct that the day appointed for that purpose, which was near at hand, should be passed, after due deliberation decided that the only course open to them was to represent the matter fully to His Majesty the Emperor, and to request him to be pleased specially to select some high officer who might proceed to Tien-tsin to make arrangements for Mr. Bruce's reception. Their memorial was sent forward at the rate of 600 *li* (200 miles) a day,* and would arrive at the latest in some eight or nine days at Peking, so that it might be assumed that when Mr. Bruce and the Ministers of France and America reached Tien-tsin, the Imperial Commissioners could not fail to have arrived as well, and so the exchange of Treaties in Peking would be effected by the time fixed for the purpose.

The Commissioners were in the act of addressing Mr. Bruce to the above effect, when they received his second letter dated the 11th instant, expressing a wish that they should proceed by steamer. They were not unaware that a steamer would be a most expeditious (means of conveyance), but they have not received His Majesty's commands (to avail themselves of it), and they could on no account presume so to proceed on their own motion. Were they now to make the proposition the subject of a memorial (so far from any advantageous result from such a course), there would be, on the contrary, time lost in the marching and countermarching. It behoves them, therefore, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, to return post-haste to the capital. As they have prayed His Majesty to detach a high officer to act as agent in the matter, Mr. Bruce will be certainly enabled to arrive at his destination by the time appointed. With the peaceful relations now established between the two nations, nothing certainly will be done that is not in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty, and the Commissioners, accordingly, pray Mr. Bruce at once to put away all misgiving on the subject. There is no need for him to feel any anxiety. They would wish that on his arrival at the mouth of the Tien-tsin river (the Peiho), he should anchor his vessels of war outside the bar, and then, without much baggage and with a moderate retinue, proceed to the capital for the exchange of the Treaties. His mission being a pacific one (or, as he comes speaking peace), his treatment by the Government of China will not fail to be in every way most courteous; and it is the sincere wish of the Commissioners that relations of friendship may be from this time

* This is the form of words for the fastest rate of mail-despatch but one.

forth consolidated, and that on each side confidence may be felt in the good faith and justice of the other.

A necessary communication, addressed to the Honourable F. Bruce, C.B., &c., &c.

Hien-fung, 9th year, 5th moon, 12th day
(12th of June, 1859).

(Received June 13, 8 A.M.)

No. 9.

*Mr. Bruce to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received
September 13.)*

*Off the Peiho River,
July 5, 1859.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to state that four days after the receipt of his Excellency Kweiliang's letter, I left Woosung for the north, taking the Coromandel in tow, in order to have an unarmed vessel in which to ascend the river.

On arriving at the Islands of Sha-loo-tien, the rendezvous agreed on with the Admiral, I found the squadron no longer there, and proceeded to the mouth of the Peiho on the 20th June, where the ships were assembled, the Admiral having sent the gun-boats over the bar, on account of the heavy sea running outside.

Admiral Hope reached the Islands of Sha-loo-tien on the 16th, and on the 17th he left the anchorage in the Fury, attended by two gun-boats, to announce the coming of the Ministers of England and France to the authorities at the mouth of the river. The Fury and gun-boats anchored outside the bar, and Commander Commerell, with Mr. Mongan, the interpreter, went over the bar in the Fury's gig, to deliver the message. They were not allowed to land by the armed rabble on the bank, and when Captain Commerell asked for an interview with the authorities, they declared that there was no authority, civil or military, on the spot; that the barriers in the river had been made by the people at their own expense, not against us, but against the rebels; and that the garrison consisted of militia only. The chief spokesman, who called himself an engineer or Clerk of the Works, however, offered to take any message to Tientsin, and bring back an answer.

On receiving the report of what had passed, Admiral Hope sent Captain Commerell in again to inform them of the arrival of the Ministers, and to request that a passage should be opened within three days to allow of their proceeding by the river to Tien-tsin.

To this they replied that they had dispatched a messenger to Tien-tsin to notify our arrival, and that a passage should be opened within the required time. Admiral Hope then returned to Sha-loo-tien.

On the 18th the squadron left for the Peiho, and the gun-boats anchored inside the bar on account of the heavy sea running outside; and on the 20th, the day of my arrival, Admiral Hope proceeded to the forts to see whether steps had been taken to open a passage for us, and to deliver a letter he had addressed to the Intendant of Tien-tsin, stating that the squadron would remain at the anchorage during our visit to Peking, and requesting that a market should be opened for the sale of fresh provisions, and arrangements made for landing of officers and men in such numbers as might not be inconvenient to the inhabitants of Takoo.

The same rabble came down to the bank, and opposed the landing, one of them threatening Mr.